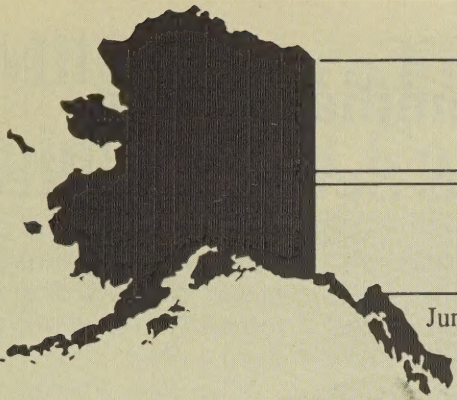


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ALASKA PEOPLE

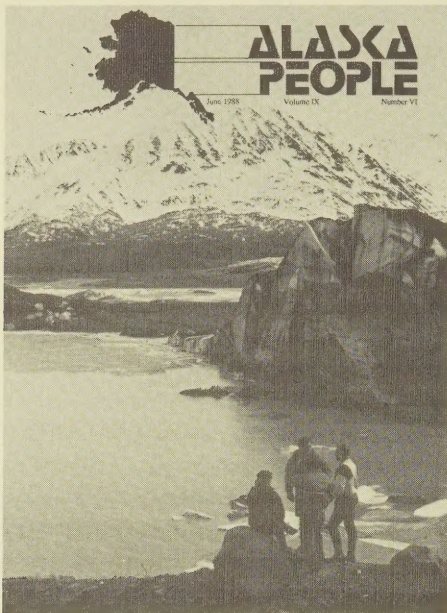
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On the Cover:

Knik River airboat operators Cass McKinley, Gordon Mahar and Bruce Baldwin discuss BLM's safety regulations with Anchorage District Realty Specialist Dave Rukke

The Fire Familiarization Program has Seven New Recruits

Recruits for the Fire Familiarization Program recently completed two weeks of intensive training at the Alaska Fire Service in Fairbanks. Headed by crew boss Randi Anderson and squad bosses Valerie Romanello and Gordon Schafer, the trainees learned how to dig fire line; learned about fire weather; how the Incident Command System works; toured AFS facilities and spent at least an hour a day in physical training (PT) in preparation for working on the line during the upcoming fire season.

Each crew member was issued nomex pants and shirts, a field pack, tent, sleeping bag, machete, hard hat, fire shelter and other miscellaneous firefighting items. "Most didn't realize all the book-work and training a beginning firefighter receives," says Romanello. "But now they're all hoping for a good long fire assignment," says Schafer.

The seven first-year recruits will

be on call from June 7-July 15. If called out to a fire, they will be joined by five second-year FFPs to form a crew.

"The Fire Familiarization Program was started in 1985 to acquaint up-and-coming non-fire personnel with the basics of fire suppression. In years when there are a lot of fires, these recruits will augment the ranks of AFS. Based on their past fire experience, some second year people are assimilated into the manpower pool operated through the AFS duty office, others with less fire experience return to the line.

"This program is a first in the Bureau," says BLM State Fire Management Officer Russ Hanson. "We are taking people who would normally never have a fire assignment and providing them with training and actual fire experience. The payoff will be in future managers with a working knowledge of fire suppression," says Hanson.

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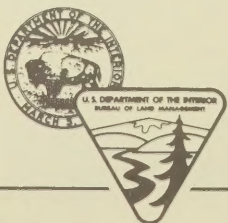
Dave Vickery, Chief, Public Affairs
Joette Storm, Public Affairs Specialist

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Tricia Hogervorst-Rukke

Layout:

Jim Mroczek



The FFP recruits receive a lesson in sharpening tools from squad boss Val Romanello. (Seated left to right) Don Pino, crew boss Randi Anderson. (Standing left to right) Dianne Thompson, smokejumper Paul Naman, Ann Richardson, Kathy Tietz, Kim Pearce, Bryan Siebold. (photo by FFP recruit Dave Rukke).

371 Million Acre Fire Planning Effort Completed

by Russ Hanson

On May 18, BLM's Print Shop delivered 200 copies of the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan - Southeast Planning Area. This event marked the completion of a decade-long effort involving dozens of agencies, native corporations and village and tribal groups.

Thirteen separate planning areas involving 371 million acres are now covered by coordinated, interagency fire management plans. This represents the largest single fire planning effort ever undertaken.

Under the plans, land managers have designated four levels of suppression: critical, full, modified and limited.

The fire planning effort in Alaska is a dynamic one. It allows land managers to alter their options at the end of each season consistent with their own management objectives and those of their neighbors.



Thirteen separate interagency fire plans covering 371 million acres represents the largest fire planning effort ever undertaken.

Airboat Operators Offer Views of BLM's Knik Glacier

The cracking and calving of Alaska's massive glaciers never ceases to fascinate Alaskans and tourists alike. In the Knik Valley, forty miles north of Anchorage, three commercial airboat operators are taking advantage of this by providing visitors a closeup view of one of the state's largest glaciers.

The Knik River and the glacier are managed by BLM. This is just one example of the recreation activities with which BLM's Anchorage District is involved. As commercial recreation permittees on BLM lands, the operators are required to abide by BLM's safety regulations and pay a small percentage of their income from the trips to BLM.

Explaining the regulations and ensuring that the Alaska River Winds, Inc., Knik Glacier Scenic



Airboat operators Gordon Mahar and Bruce Baldwin discuss BLM's regulations with Realty Specialist Dave Rukke and Hydrologist Mac Wheeler.

Tours and Alaska Airboat Glacier Tours operators are in compliance with their permits is the job of Anchorage District Realty Specialist Dave Rukke. In early May, Rukke met with the operators at the base of Knik glacier to discuss safety procedures such as safe landing areas away from the calving glacier. "As land manager, BLM could be liable, so it is important that the outfitters follow all

the safety rules," says Rukke. Last year 717 people took the airboat trip up river.

"We get people from all over," says boat operator Bob Hakenson, "but we also take up a lot of local valley people who have always wanted to see the glacier closeup." The tours last about three hours and include a picnic at the base of a waterfall near the glacier.

June is National Wild and Scenic Rivers Month

by Ed Bovy

America has been "taming" rivers with dams and reservoirs for flood control, irrigation and recreation for more than 100 years. But in the late 1960s, Congress recognized that the national policy to construct dams needed to be balanced by another policy to preserve rivers in their free-flowing condition.

The 1968 National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act protects designated rivers and their shorelines for the enjoyment of present and future generations. June has been designated as National Wild and Scenic Rivers Month. A national rivers conference will be held in Taos, New Mexico and BLM-Alaska has developed a traveling display that will tour Alaska. It will be in the Anchorage Fifth Avenue Mall June 20-24.

To qualify as part of the system, a river must be free-flowing and have outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other values. Congress or the legislature of the state in which the river flows can designate a river as part of the system.

The act specifies that river segments will be classified, designated and administered as:

Recreational - Rivers which may have some development along the shorelines and may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Scenic - Rivers that are accessible in places by roads but are managed to remain free of impoundments. Shorelines and watersheds are still largely undeveloped.

Wild - Rivers that are free of impoundments and are generally inaccessible except by trail. The water is unpolluted and the shorelines are primitive. These rivers represent vestiges of primitive America as seen by early explorers.

Recreation planners look forward to field season on rivers.

During the summer BLM recreation and resource specialists patrol stretches of BLM's National Wild and Scenic Rivers.

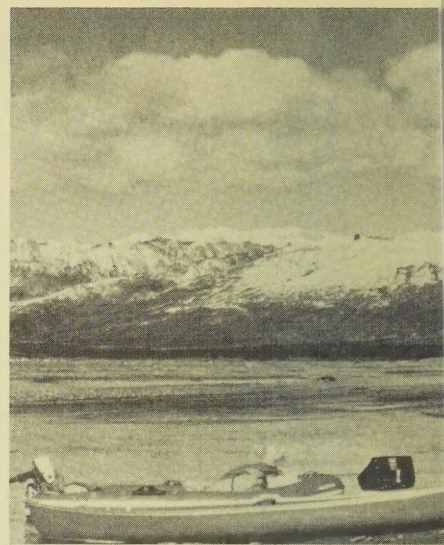
The Glennallen District has developed an intensive patrol and maintenance program in response to the large number of people using the Gulkana River. Recreation planner Larry Kajdan has five seasonal employees and two Student Conservation Aids assisting him this summer.

The patrol crews alternate between the Gulkana and Delta rivers providing information to the floaters, maintaining portages and toilets and transporting other resource specialists to the area for resource inventories.

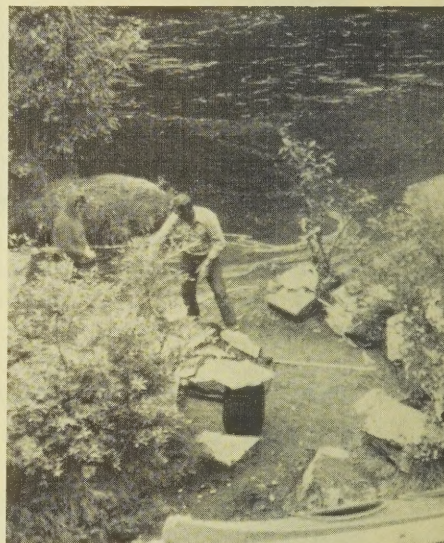
"People think that the Gulkana is a 'piece of cake,' but our crews take out eight to 12 wrecked canoes each summer," says Kajdan. This summer, two Boy Scout troops will work on the trail to Canyon Lake, near Canyon Rapids.

"The river patrol program for the Fortymile River will be more intense than usual," says Steese-White Mountains recreation planner Lon Kelly. "Due largely to the staff work of Tok natural resource specialist Bob Burritt, a suction dredger was granted limited intervenor status in the 3809 lawsuit over the objections of the Sierra Club. This means that other dredgers will be applying for intervenor status and that the river management program will be under scrutiny by environmental groups," says Kelly.

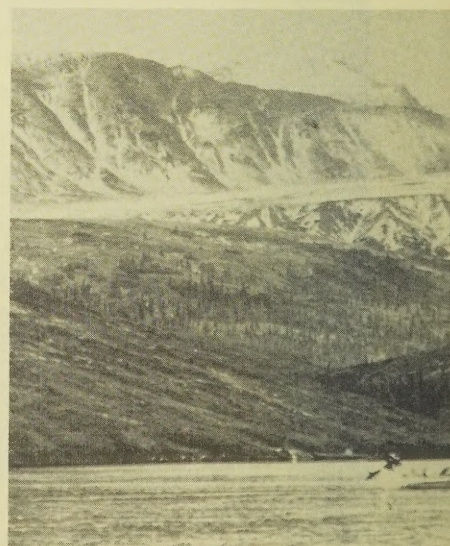
Birch and Beaver Creeks will be patrolled once this summer by the recreation staff who will look for potential problems such as trespass cabins and unauthorized use as well as for new day hiking trips off the rivers.



The Delta River



Portage on the Delta River



The Delta River

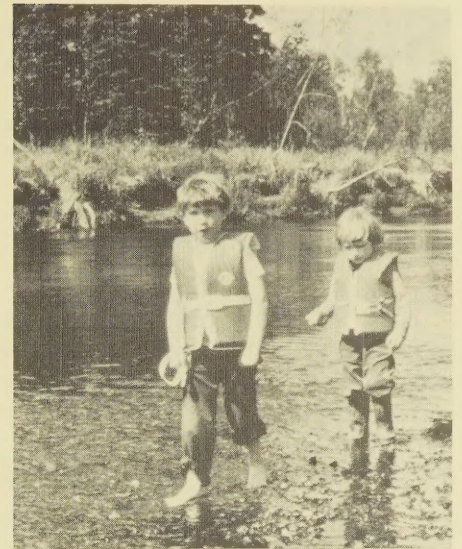
BLM's Wild and Scenic Rivers

Alaska has 42 rivers in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, more than any other state. Six of these rivers are administered by BLM. Another BLM-managed river, the Squirrel, is eligible for inclusion in the system. The rivers are:

Beaver Creek National Wild River is a moderately swift, shallow stream that flows through rolling hills and past the jagged limestone peaks of the White Mountains. BLM manages a 111-mile segment in the White Mountains National Recreation Area.

From its headwaters just north of the Steese National Conservation Area, **Birch Creek National Wild River** flows swiftly through upland plateaus, forested valleys, rolling hills and low mountains. After it reaches the marshy Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, it slows and meanders until it joins the Yukon River. BLM manages a 126-mile "wild" segment.

The **Delta National Wild and Recreational River** begins at the Tangle Lakes region of southcen-



People of all ages enjoy the Gulkana.

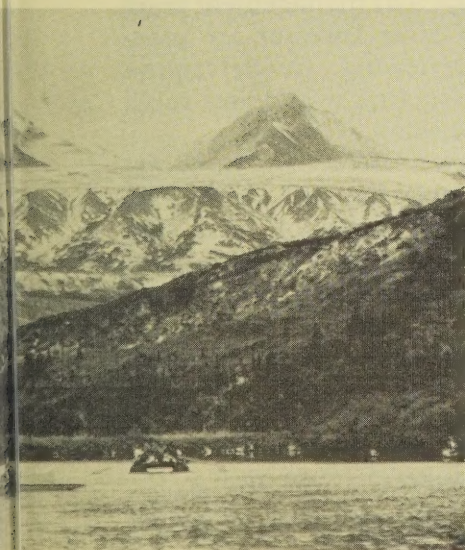
tral Alaska and flows north through the Alaska Range to the Yukon River. Tundra-covered hills give way to steep alluvial slopes and rock cliffs as the Delta flows north.

The **Fortymile National Wild and Scenic River** drainage is an extensive network of creeks and rivers in east-central Alaska, 392 miles of which are managed by BLM. Boaters have many choices for trips through deep, winding canyons filled with forests of birch, spruce and aspen.

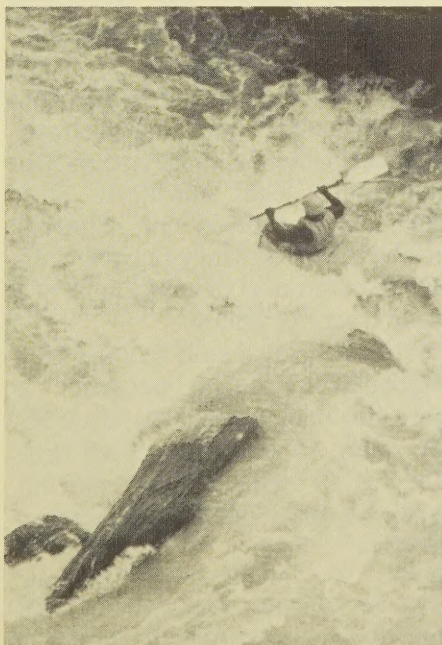
The **Gulkana National Wild River** in southcentral Alaska is BLM's most popular river due to easy road access at both the put-in and take-out points. The most popular trip originates at Paxson Lake and ends at Sourdough. The river gently meanders through spruce-hardwood forests. Extended wilderness trips of 20 days duration are also possible.

Located above the Arctic Circle, the **Squirrel River** begins in the Baird Mountains. The geography and scenery are characteristic of northwest Alaska.

The cold, crystal-clear waters of the Unalakleet National Wild River flow quietly past gravel bars, cutbanks, oxbows and marshes in remote western Alaska. Fishing is excellent for chinook, coho, chum and pink salmon.



(photos by Lisa Holzapfel)



"The Slot" on the Tsatna River.

Study Team Recommends Training Policies be Clarified

by Joette Storm

BLM Alaska's management is supportive of training, but does not always manage the training program to achieve the most cost effectiveness. That was the conclusion of a recent evaluation of the training program by a six member team.

Led by Helen Hankins, Anchorage District ADM for Physical Resources, the team set out to examine seven areas:

- 1) The relationship and relative effectiveness of the Employee Development Staff in the Branch of Human Resources to specialized training personnel in other units;

- 2) Whether training has improved on-the-job effectiveness and enabled employees to meet changes in programs and technology;

- 3) Availability and cost effectiveness of training;

- 4) The method of nominating and selecting employees for special training opportunities such as Management Leadership and Intensive Semester;

- 5) Roles and responsibilities in administering the training program;

- 6) Effectiveness of the Individual Development Plans in identifying training needs and career goals of employees;

- 7) Development of training to meet organizational needs.

The evaluation consisted of a questionnaire sent to 250 randomly selected employees and several days of interviews with employees throughout the state.

Team members included BLMers Fran Eickbush, DSD Cadastral Survey, Don Pino, clas-

sification specialist and Joette Storm, public affairs specialist. In addition Susan Winjum-Parks, regional training director for the Office of Personnel Management in San Francisco, and Elaine Swearingen, employee development specialist, Fort Richardson, lent some nonagency perspective. The team was assisted by Ruth Stockie, management analyst.

"After interviews with several hundred employees from all organizational levels we found that many BLM employees are unsure exactly what the current training policy is, but have a vague notion that everyone is entitled to up to two weeks of training each year," says Hankins. Many employees did not perceive a connection between training and performance.

Another major finding was that training policy is not applied consistently by all supervisors resulting in some inequities.

The team reviewed the Alaska supplement for the 1400.410 BLM manual and recommended that the Alaska Management Team review it and make revisions where appropriate before distributing it to all supervisors. "We found the supplement to be quite thorough with regard to how training needs should be identified and evaluated," said Hankins. They also recommended the automation of the training program, role clarification and development of a clear training policy.

Winjum-Parks said the key to a successful training program is needs identification. "Supervisors are going to have to spend time with their employees relating tasks in their PIPRs to training needs.



While Campbell Tract BLMers concentrated their cleanup on the tract, 29 ASO BLMers picked up trash along Ship Creek. It was the first time BLM participated in the Municipality of Anchorage's Clean Creek Program. Rolling a tire to the dump are: (l to r) Jim Ducker, Pat Smith and Darrell Winter. (photo by Danielle Allen)

Workwise Or Otherwise

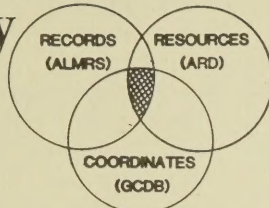
A Cadastral Survey Organizational Study Team headed by Al Pierson of Washington's Management Research Division, has completed a review of the organizational structure of Alaska's Cadastral Survey Division. The team has made several recommendations which the 920 management team and the State Director are presently reviewing to determine which structure would best fulfill BLM's mission in Alaska.

The new structure will be implemented over the next one to two years in conjunction with the move of the field survey branch from Campbell Tract to the State Office.

"We interviewed every Cadastral branch and section, Title and Land Status and the Division of Conveyances," says Pierson. "I am really impressed with the expertise and dedication of Cadastral Survey in Alaska."

Team Leads BLM into 21st Century

by Joette Storm



Alaska's Land Information System Project Team is an 11-person staff with a big job ahead of them...helping BLM employees prepare for the 21st century. Led by Project Manager Hal Wolverton, their task is to wean BLM employees from the old Burroughs computer and the current Alaska Lands and Minerals Records System (ALMRS) by transferring data processing functions to the new Prime computer.

"The Prime," says Wolverton, "is the interim computer system for lands information that will get everyone in BLM ready for the target system, a specially designed computer and software package dealing with land information, geographics coordinates and resource information.

"This effort is part of a nationwide modernization program that will put the BLM on the cutting edge of computer technology," he says.

Team members include Wolverton, Pat Skoog, Brenda Moeller, Shari Aikens, Sonda Juliussen, Pat Yelder, Rose Cunningham, Susan Britt, Gary Jamieson, Alice Chavez and Debbie Burns. Their ranks will be augmented by other BLMers serving details of two to six months.

A key element of the project will be the transfer of casefile information using data elements created by a bureauwide committee, says team member Pat Skoog. "Alaska's information will be modified to meet the national standards and certain data elements such as identifying land by recording districts rather than counties will be added to meet Alaska's needs," says Skoog. "Alaska's Native regions are another element to be added to the national standard."

Before this transfer can occur, existing casefile data must be reviewed for accuracy and completeness. "Some townships are currently listed on the Burroughs with only one line of data," says Skoog, "In the new system there will be at least one line for each section in a township."

In cleaning up the master name file, the team will have to check on 81,000 applicant names to eliminate duplications. Eventually a user will be able to track an applicant alphabetically by name, by the sound of the name or by applicant number.

A concurrent task is the development of the new application programs. The Denver Service Center has the lead in software development for the interim Land Information System (LIS), says Wolverton. The software development has become a Bureauwide effort, with Alaska taking the lead to produce a model of the current system. This model will include ALMRS, and case recordation systems which will require coordination with Denver as well as other states. Five of the team members will work on the analysis, design and programming necessary to develop the model, which will be the basis for the interim system.

The first priority of implementing the software," says Shari Aikens, is to replace the current functions on the Burroughs with the same capabilities on the Prime. By using a current data base management system and a structured approach to software development, a more flexible, user friendly and easily maintained system will be produced.

Another part of the job is the building of a grid or Legal Land Description (LLD) of the state by geographic areas. "We have an underlying description, but it has several errors and is incomplete," says Wolverton. "Beginning June 21, more than 18,000 township descriptions will have to be collected on the Honeywell computer system and then transferred to the Prime." The team has been run-

ning tests for several weeks to check the collection program.

Team members are encouraging peer participation so that all the users will have ownership and knowledge of the new system.

Wolverton predicts the LIS project will take about 20 months to develop.

"We're both excited and apprehensive about the June 1 startup," Wolverton says. "It's a bit like going out of the gate to rope a calf."

The end result of the project will be that five to eight years from now, when the target system is ready, every BLMer involved in the land program will have a terminal on his or her desk."

WELCOME ABOARD May 1988

Daniel Davis, Legal Clerk, Fairbanks Support Center
Donna Schloicka, Legal Clerk, Fairbanks Support Center
Margo F. Hornback, Fire Support Assistant, Alaska Fire Service
Juliet Harwick, Student Trainee (Land Law Examiner), ASO Division of Conveyances
Angela Cameron, Mail & File Clerk, Fairbanks Support Center
 Student Trainee (Land Surveyors):
Kathleen Mahon
Steve Schwarz
Gary Hahn
Thad Robertson
Timm Appleton
Garold McColumn
Karen Deamon

MOVING ON May 1988

John Benson, Program Analyst, ASO Division of Mineral Resources
Sharon Overstreet, Secretary, ASO Division of Mineral Resources
Christopher Hazlitt, Electronics Mechanics, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey
Richard Denholm, Cartographic Technician, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey
Tracy Bradford, Clerical Assistant, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey
Janet Kelly, Staffing Assistant, ASO Division of Support Services

Applause



Length of Service Award

10-year pin

Sue Michael, Administrative Specialist, ASO Division of Support Services

Gregory Ely, Electronic Mechanic, AFS

Kurtis Sorenson, Maintenance Mechanic, Glennallen District

30-year pin

Bill Butts, Natural Resource Specialist, Steese/White Mountains District

On-the-Spot-Cash Award

Lynda Purvis, Cartographic Aid, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Melvin Accher, Cartographic Aid, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Dan Wietchy, Cartographic Technician, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Ron Teseneer, Geologist, ASO Division of Mineral Resources

Daniel Johnson, Chief, Contract Section, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Dave Kelley, Natural Resource Specialist, Anchorage District

Kevin Meyer, Natural Resource Specialist, Anchorage District

Susan Lavin, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Renewable Resources

Joseph Burns, Land Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Donald Lofton, Computer Specialist, ASO Division of Support Services

Susan Erickson, Supervisory Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Appreciation Award

Helen Hankins, Supervisory Physical Scientist, Anchorage District

Julie Burwell, Office Assistant, Glennallen District

Wilberta Kammer, Secretary, Arctic District

Kathy Digan, Secretary, Kobuk District

Joe Ribar, Supervisory Forestry Technician, AFS

Jack Grafton, Equal Employment Specialist, ASO EEO Office

Fred Ward, Land Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Jerry Pinkerton, Supervisory Land Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Bill Twenhofel, Supervisory Land Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Tracy Kinder, Secretary, ASO Division of Renewable Resources

Terry O'Sullivan, Outdoor Recreation Planner, ASO Division of Renewable Resources

Jenice Prutz, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Sue Michael, Administrative Specialist, ASO Division of Support Services

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